



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Craig Estes
District 30

September 1, 2015

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I have had the honor of working with representatives from nearly every industry in Texas in my nearly 15 years in the Texas Senate. As a member of the committee that oversees the telecommunications industry during most of my Senate tenure, I've become very familiar with their issues and public policy challenges. My legislative priorities include reducing unnecessary government regulation and promoting economic freedom. I trust the marketplace to innovate and build a thriving economy.

I supported the move to state-issued franchising in 2005 when Texas became the first state in the nation to streamline video franchising at the state PUC, rather than costly city-by-city negotiations. I supported the successful attempts to level the playing field among industry players in a subsequent legislative session and I supported legislative efforts to remove barriers to deployment in rural areas of the state so more Texans have access to high-speed internet.

I have the fortune of having both Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications operating in my district, so I am familiar with both companies. I have followed the proposed merger. Philosophically, I support businesses' rights to grow. Time Warner Cable has provided good service to my district, offering broadband services to small towns, and Charter has launched their impressive new Spectrum service. I look forward to Charter building upon Time Warner's solid track record by making base internet speeds even faster and eliminating costs of renting modems.

Both companies are good corporate citizens, investing in the communities they serve and encouraging employee volunteerism. I believe this merger can bring many benefits to our state without reducing competition. The combined companies can serve customers more efficiently and effectively than either company can do alone. I respectfully request the Commission to approve this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Estes". Below the signature, the name "Craig Estes" is printed in a small, sans-serif font.

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